

The 24th Annual One Night Count of people who are homeless in King County, Washington



**Prepared by the Education Committee of the
Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless
in cooperation with
King County Housing and Community Development Program,
Human Services Department of the City of Seattle, and
Out of the Rain Homelessness Initiative of United Way of King County.**

March 2003

Acknowledgments

The 24th Annual One Night Count is a collaborative effort of the Seattle/ King County Coalition for the Homeless. Special thanks for support of the Street Count go to Reverend Rick Reynolds from Operation Nightwatch, Elizabeth Westberg of the YWCA, and the members of Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets.

This report would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of members of the Education Committee of SKCCH including: Marlo Klein of the United Way of King County – Out of the Rain Homelessness Initiative, Joy Quinlan of the City of Seattle Human Services Department, Kate Speltz of the King County Housing and Community Development Program, and Lisa Gustaveson, Survey Administrator.

Numbers don't tell the story. At age 79, "Barry" had outlived his savings, and Social Security proved inadequate to pay for a market rate apartment. A veteran of World War 2, a highly skilled technical writer and designer, he was stuck living in a warehouse, a thin mattress and a wool blanket providing scant comfort.

When we look at the numbers, we need to remember the faces too.

Rick Reynolds, Operation Nightwatch and
Founder of the One Night Count

For more information about this report or for the raw data please contact:

Tara Connor
Co-chair
SKCCH
(206) 374-9409 ext 119
tconnor@plymouthhousing.org

Dan Owcarz
Co-chair
SKCCH
(206) 283-6070 ext 304
skcch@homelessinfo.org

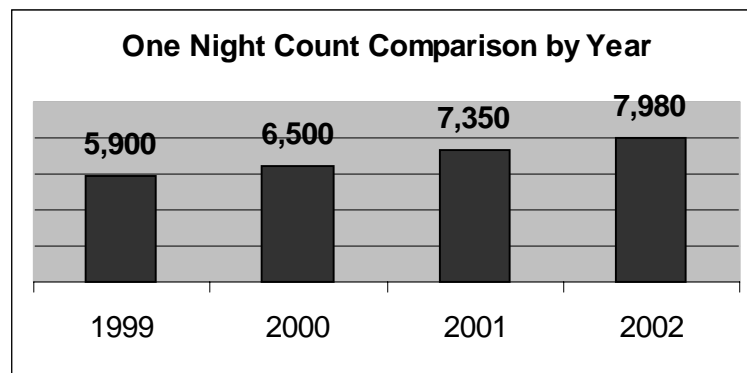
2002 One Night Count

The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH) currently estimates that on any given night there are 7,980 people who are homeless in King County, Washington.

Each year SKCCH conducts a One Night Count which includes a street count and a survey of homeless shelters and transitional programs. The purpose of this count is not to pinpoint the exact number of people who are homeless, but rather to track trends over time and analyze demographic data.

The One Night Count consists of the Street Count which is conducted in limited parts of the cities of Seattle and Kent, a comprehensive Survey of emergency shelter and transitional programs throughout King County, and an estimate of the number of people unsheltered in the balance of King County.

This year we estimate that 7,980 people are homeless on any given night. The survey of shelters and transitional programs found 4,675 people utilizing services on the night of the One Night Count. The Street Count conducted in parts of Seattle and Kent found 2,040 people surviving outside without shelter. In addition, it is estimated that at least 1,265 people are living unsheltered in the balance of King County.



The increase in homeless individuals counted over the past three years corresponds to growing numbers from the Street Count. There was a **23% increase** in the number of people found without shelter when comparing traditional count areas. There have been moderate gains in the number of emergency shelter and transitional beds available; however, the unmet need for housing has continued to grow.

The comprehensive report that follows provides current, unduplicated numbers relating to individuals who are homeless in King County. The data is from the October 17, 2002 One Night Count organized by the Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH).

The 2002 Annual One Night Count Estimate of people who are homeless in King County, Washington

The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless estimates that on any given night there are **7,980** people who are homeless in King County, Washington.

Introduction

The One Night Count is comprised of a ‘street count’ as well as a survey of shelter and transitional housing programs.

This report will provide the reader with a glimpse of the women, men and children whose homelessness resulted in their being in one of the following places on October 17, 2002:

- The streets of downtown Seattle and surrounding neighborhoods
- The streets of limited parts of Kent
- Abandoned structures (from a youth survey)
- Tent City
- Emergency shelters throughout King County
- 5 Transitional housing programs throughout King County

It is vital to review this data summary in light of its true claim – that is, a non-scientific estimate, to be used for shedding light on trends in homelessness in Seattle and the balance of King County.

History of the One Night Count

The One Night Count of homeless people in the Seattle/King County area has been conducted annually for the past 24 years.

The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH), a partnership of not-for-profit and government agencies that collaborates to address the needs of homeless people, assumes oversight of this event which has 2 main components:

- the ‘street count’
- the shelter and transitional housing survey.

Street Count

The Seattle/King County homeless street count is led by Operation Nightwatch, an active member of SKCCH. It consists of a ‘moment in time’ unduplicated tally of people living ‘on the street’ downtown and in outlying neighborhoods of Seattle, and this year – for the first time, in parts of the City of Kent. For several years now, anecdotal evidence has suggested that people who are homeless are leaving the downtown core of Seattle and seeking refuge in the suburban

cities. The coalition hopes to continue expanding the boundaries of the street count in order to provide a more accurate depiction of homelessness in King County.

Because homeless people go to great lengths to protect themselves from view in an effort to survive another night, the street count does not reflect the exact number of people unsheltered in our city. Given this, the count is intended to foster an understanding of the patterns of survival for people who sleep in publicly accessible areas. The Street Count does not fully capture data about homeless people living in abandoned buildings, sleeping on private property, or people who have managed to find some security hidden within bushes under the freeway.

Shelter and Transitional Housing Survey

The annual One Night Count also includes a survey of Seattle/King County's sheltered homeless community. This component of the count is carried out with administrative support funded through United Way of King County, City of Seattle Human Services Department, King County Housing and Community Development Program, and the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless.

The survey, which is conducted on the same night as the Street Count, produces unduplicated data on people utilizing homeless services at a given point in time. The staff of homeless programs complete a seven page survey which offers a profile of people who are homeless staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and Safe Havens, as well as those utilizing motel voucher programs throughout King County on that particular night. Over time the data has helped identify trends in service use and provision.

It must be emphasized that the information reported in the survey solely reflects the number of individuals and households receiving service at a targeted program at one particular point in time and does not reflect individuals in the homeless community who are not accessing services.

Neither the Street Count nor the Survey captures the hundreds of people throughout the county that are "couch-surfing," staying with friends or relatives for a few nights or weeks here and there. Nor does this effort seek to depict the people living in substandard housing, in trailers without running water or electricity in the more rural areas of the county, the many families that are secretly doubled or tripled up on a permanent basis in one unit, or the hundreds of people that are paying for motel rooms on a daily or weekly basis hoping to somehow save enough money for a permanent place of their own.

Street Count

This year's street count found a total of 2,040 people living on the streets of Seattle and King County. This included: 1,779 people found in traditional count areas, and another 261 people in three new count areas (Rainier neighborhood, youth "squats", Kent). Notably, one of these new count areas was, for the first time, outside of the City of Seattle. Eighty-two individuals were found sleeping outside in the City of Kent.

The following table indicates that the number of people living on the streets of Seattle has increased substantially over the past few years despite the rapid growth in the local economy which occurred until recently.

Individuals found Living on the Streets: 1998 – 2002

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Men	920	718	515	451	420
Women	163	129	83	93	64
Unknown	918	528	433	417	297
Minor	39	79	54	22	3
Total	2,040	1454	1085	983	784

We found that the number of homeless individuals seen on the streets this night increased by 23%, when comparing the 2002 street count with the figures for the same geographical areas in 2001.

Trends

Homeless men continue to make up the greatest proportion of individuals counted at 45%. This is matched by the proportion of individuals whose gender is unknown. The large proportion of "unknowns" is due to the fact that it is often difficult to determine the gender of an individual who is clothed and covered to survive the night outside.

Trends over time have suggested that neighborhood development, construction, police presence, laws, weather, and social service locations can impact where people stay. The large number of people counted in Ballard (109), and in the new count area of the Rainier Valley (96) confirms anecdotal evidence that homeless people are seeking refuge in the neighborhoods outside of downtown Seattle.

Homelessness is also a reality in the balance of the County (i.e.: outside of Seattle). The expansion of the count this year to include parts of the City of Kent, and the numbers found without shelter there (82) confirm this.

The following table indicates that the places where homeless people were located on the night of the count have remained fairly consistent over the past few years:

Where people were found by the One Night Street Count 1998 – 2002

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Benches	2%	2%	2%	4%	4%
Parking garages	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Vehicle (est. 2)	23%	22%	20%	16%	15%
Under road/bridges	9%	15%	11%	15%	20%
Doorways	8%	11%	13%	14%	13%
City Park	3%	5%	3%	9%	9%
Greenbelt	8%	3%	2%	5%	3%
Bus Stops	2%	2%	5%	2%	3%
Alleys	2%	6%	3%	5%	5%
Walking w/ no destination	15%	17%	15%	---	---
Structures	13%	---	---	---	---
Other	16%	19%	25%	28%	29%

It should be noted that ‘car camping’ is a particularly difficult demographic to capture. Cars are often located in dark obscure places, with items placed over the windows for privacy and protection. Volunteers are instructed to mark two people per vehicle whenever there is *significant evidence that someone is actively using it as shelter*, although it is recognized that some cars may have more or less than that estimate.

The ‘walking’ category’ has been questioned after past street counts, in relation to the assumption that a person who is walking is not necessarily homeless. Again, volunteers are given clear instructions to use the team’s best collective judgment in these circumstances, omitting those who seem to have a defined purpose other than homeless survival activities.

This year a new category, “structures”, was added to the list of potential locations for where people were found. These semi-permanent structures may be made of cardboard, tin, canvas or any other material. With the count expanding this year outside of Seattle, and to some more park-like areas, it was believed that there would be more of such structures. As with vehicles, volunteers were instructed to mark two people per structure where there was *significant evidence that someone was actively using it as a shelter*, although it is recognized that a given structure may actually be sheltering more or less than that estimate. 13% of those included in the 2002 count were found using such structures for shelter. Volunteer counters made note of some of the particularly creative efforts by homeless households to create secure places to sleep for themselves – this year one group of volunteers saw a platform up in a tree.

The category of “other” includes a number of sites that do not fit any of the other categories. These include Tent City, the Dutch Shisler Sobering Center, and the Harborview emergency room.

Tent City

Tent City is an ongoing and of necessity mobile self-managed encampment of people who are homeless and living together to provide safety and mutual support. On the night of the count, Tent City reported 74 men, 20 women, and one minor for a total of 95 homeless people who were living in their community. The 2001 Street Count also included the Tent City community, which at that time consisted of 101 people.

Sobering Center

The Dutch Shisler Sobering Center reported 46 homeless women and men at their facility on the night of the count. The Sobering Center provides a safe, clean, supervised place for intoxicated individuals to ‘sleep off’ the effects of alcohol and other drugs in a medically supervised environment.

Emergency Room

Harborview Hospital reported 5 homeless men in the emergency room on the night of the count.

Squats

“Squats” is the term used to indicate the places of shelter that people who are homeless create for themselves in otherwise abandoned buildings. Traditionally, squats have not been included in the count as due to safety concerns volunteers do not enter abandoned buildings. This year, for the first time the coalition attempted to begin to include squats in our count by partnering with the non-profit organization Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS).

On the night of the count, PSKS hosted an evening event and encouraged young people who were staying in abandoned buildings to drop by and complete a brief survey. As a result, we have the first quantitative glimpse of young people in Seattle who are living in “squats”: 47 men, 27 women, and one unknown (between the ages of 18 and 25), and 11 minors – for a total of 83 individuals.

Shelter and Transitional Housing Survey

On October 17, 2002 4,675 unduplicated persons we were homeless were accessing shelters and transitional programs in Seattle and King County. The chart below summarizes the survey findings in comparison to previous years. This year the survey administrator went to great lengths to capture the gender, age, and household composition of people accessing services. Due to these efforts there are some changes in the number of single men and women reported because people were not lumped into the “unknown” category.

Over time new programs have opened and some have closed or significantly changed their service model. Whenever possible, efforts have been made to maintain consistency in classification and reporting.

Number of programs reporting in the 2002 One Night Count Survey

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Family shelters & transitional	69	58	80	63	46
Single adult shelters & transitional	69	60	71	65	34
Youth shelters & transitional	25	28	30	29	26
Voucher programs	12	18	14	15	9
Total	175	164	195	172	115

Emergency shelter is short-term housing that can vary from one night to ninety days. It is important to note that the term “emergency shelter” can refer to a variety of types of programs, and that requirements and regulations will differ from shelter to shelter. Target populations include: single adults, families (two-parent and/or single parents with children), youth/young adults, teen parents, and those that are fleeing from an abusive relationship with an intimate partner.

The make up of the shelters will differ also. Facilities range from a mat or a bunk in a large shared space, to private or semi-private rooms or units. Single adult shelters are usually dorm-style, with separate facilities for men and women if they are co-ed. Most family shelters will provide families with their own room or unit. Shelters may be nighttime only (i.e., 7:00pm to 7:00am), or may also provide services and a place to be during the day.

Transitional housing is time-limited housing with supportive services designed to help people make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. The time range for transitional housing is 90 days to 24 months. Amount and intensity of services varies with target population, according to the individual needs of clients, and over the time-span of their tenure.

Individuals by Type of Program	Seattle programs	Balance of King County programs	All Programs
Shelter-Singles / Adults	1,472	50	1,522
Shelter-Families	436	179	615
Shelter Youth/Young Adults	45	11	56
Transitional-Singles /Adults	497	132	187
Transitional-Families	972	556	629
Transitional- Youth/Young Adults	119	68	1,528
Voucher	89	5	94
Safe Haven	44	0	44
Totals	3,674	1,001	4,675

Individuals by Household Type	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Couples with children	717	796	819	635	497
Couples without children	30	22	8	22	24
Adult women with children	1,322	1,339	1,406	1,236	876
Teen women (18 & under) w/child	39	30	36	45	44
Men with children	88	90	71	84	56
Single women	612	682	482	482	438
Single men	1,815	1,489	1,630	1,415	1,525
Minor alone	52	46	43	46	83
Unknown		20	5	0	0
Information not monitored		157	0	0	0
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	4,675	4,671	4,500	3,965	3,543

This year's survey found a total of 3,137 households (comprised of 4,675 individuals) accessing services. This figure includes couples with no children, teen parents, single and dual parent households, and some extended family situations. It is interesting to note that the total number of reported households increased by 90 families over last year, although the number of individuals surveyed remained virtually the same.

Age and gender

Individuals Surveyed by Gender

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Females	41%	47%	43%	42%	38%
Males	59%	53%	57%	58%	62%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This year's survey had a higher response rate from programs that serve single adult men. As a result the percentage of men served appears to have increased by 6% from last year. It should be noted that this changed is not necessarily a true trend, but merely a reflection of the programs responding to the survey.

The ages of those served has remained relatively constant over the years.

Individuals Surveyed by Age

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
0-5 yrs.	12%	15%	16%	13%	12%
6-12 yrs.	11%	13%	12%	13%	10%
13-17 yrs.	8%	8%	7%	8%	7%
Subtotal 0-17	31%	36%	34%	34%	30%
18-25 yrs.	12%	11%	10%	8%	11%
26-59 yrs.	53%	49%	46%	48%	50%
60-84 yrs.	4%	4%	10%	9%	10%
85 and older	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Race/Ethnicity

The One Night Count survey data indicates that the disparity between the racial composition of the general population and of people utilizing homeless services has continued to grow. People of color are clearly over represented in the homeless community, with the exception of Asian/Pacific Islanders. This data is consistent with the One Night Count figures from the last three years. The table below shows the comparison of the racial composition of the population at-large versus those who are experiencing homelessness. The percentages are calculated excluding unknowns.

Race / Ethnicity in King County (including Seattle)

	General Population*	Homeless Population
Caucasian	80%	38%
African American	5%	37%
Native American	1%	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%	4%
Hispanic	3%	10%
Multi-racial	n/a	6%

6 2000 US Census

According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2002 "Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness, nationally it is estimated that 50% of the homeless population is African-American, 35% is white, 12% is Hispanic, 2% is Native American, and 1% is Asian/Pacific Islander.

The chart below provides a more detailed look at the race/ethnicity of people utilizing homeless programs in King County. It should be noted that the category of multi-racial was added for the 2001 survey.

Race / Ethnicity of People Utilizing Homeless Programs in King County

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
American Indian or Alaska Native	5%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Asian	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%
African (Ethiopian, Nigerian, Kenya, etc.)	11%	11%	12%	10%	5%
Black or African American	29%	29%	27%	29%	30%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	10%	9%	11%	9%	10%
White	38%	38%	37%	40%	43%
Multi-Racial	5%	4%	---	---	---
Other	1%	1%	4%	4%	4%

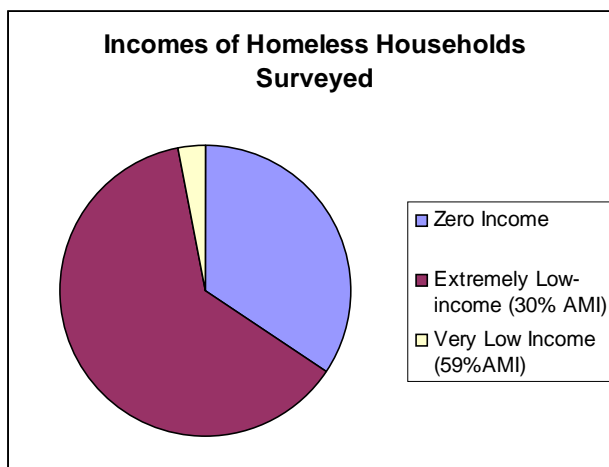
Immigrant/Refugee Status and Languages Spoken

This year's survey found 508 immigrants, refugees, or people newly arrived to this country who were utilizing services. This figure is down by 225 people from the 2001 survey. Anecdotal information from providers indicates that this trend corresponds to immigration policy changes by the Federal government. It should be noted that even with the dramatic decrease, this population is comparable in size to the number of homeless veterans in King County.

There has also been a significant decrease in the number of people served who are homeless and have limited English speaking ability. This year's survey found that those served included 43% fewer people who required language assistance (440 in year 2002 versus 769 in year 2001). The cause for this is unclear. The most common languages spoken in shelter and transitional settings were: Spanish, Somali, various African dialects, and various Asian dialects. The One Night Count has only gathered this information for two years; therefore a more comprehensive analysis of this population would be needed to provide a complete picture.

Income

When the survey was conducted the Annual Median Income (AMI) for a family of 4 in King County was \$54,401 per year. Of the households served on that night, 96% had incomes below 30% of AMI (less than \$23,350 for a family of four). This percentage has remained consistent for two years.



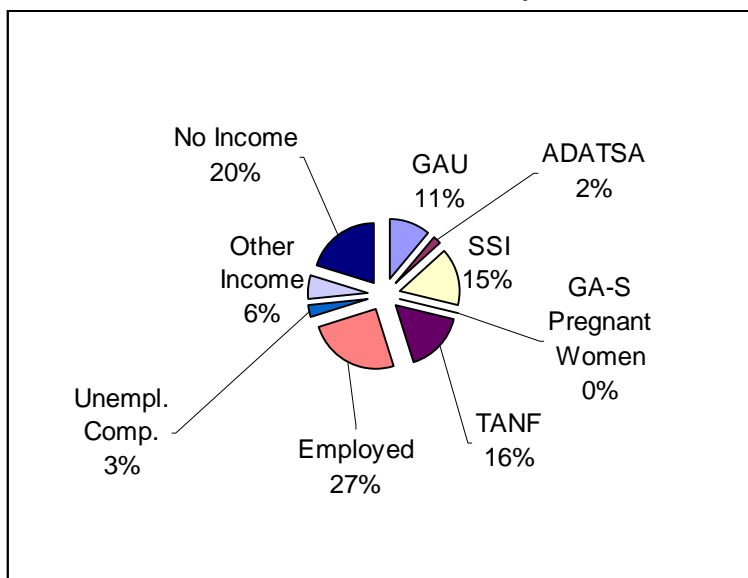
People with limited financial resources are more vulnerable to becoming homeless, and for those who've already entered the homeless system, the climb to self-sufficiency takes even longer and is more arduous. Being poor takes energy and skill, but being homeless and poor, requires a stamina that very few of us understand or even possess.

When low-income families pay more than 30% of their income in rent – it's usually at the expense of other basic needs like food, utilities and clothing. The lower a household's income, the more likely it is that they will spend a higher percentage on rent, and when rents rise, they have little recourse. Once homeless, families and individuals set about the task of rebuilding

their lives with the help of emergency shelter and transitional housing staff, often trying to save for the costly expense of moving into a new apartment or home.

One of the significant trends over time has been the decreasing percentage of households whose primary source of income is paid employment. This trend is consistent with the unemployment rates in the region, which have risen over the past few years. Even with this trend, however, paid employment remains the single largest source of income for people who are homeless.

Source of Income for Households Surveyed

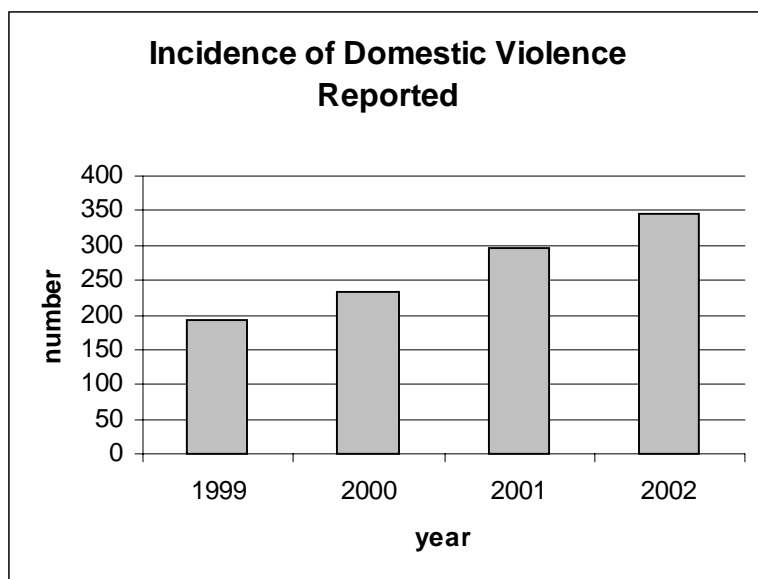


When considering the income of those individuals served by the programs surveyed, the percentage of people who were zero income increased from 20% in 2001 to 34% in 2002 (the highest to date). With 11% of the surveyed households reporting income from GA-U, the governor's proposal to cut GA-U funding from the state budget will contribute to an even greater incidence of zero income next year.

Factors Contributing to Homelessness

Survey respondents were asked to identify factors that contributed to their homelessness. People were allowed to select more than one contributing factor, and thus the statistics do not provide an unduplicated tally. For the past four years, the most frequently cited reason for homelessness has been an economic or financial loss (ex. Loss of a job). Eviction or being displaced from housing has also been historically cited as a major factor contributing to homelessness.

This year's survey had an alarming number of people (516) that reported physical or emotional abuse as a factor contributing to their homelessness. This is three times the number of people that reported experiencing abuse in the 2001 survey. It is important to note that for the past two years this factor has been separated out from the incidence of domestic violence. The number of people who have experienced domestic violence has continued to grow since 1999.



Disabilities

According to the One Night Count survey, the most frequently cited disabilities among people who are homeless are mental illness and chemical dependency. Respondents were allowed to identify more than one disability, and this year 1,189 people reported 2,121 disabilities. The chart below shows the number of reported disabilities by category for the past three years.

Disability Reported	2002	2001	2000
HIV/AIDS	64	49	
Mental Illness	588	587	464
Alcohol / Substance Abuse	684	693	644
Developmental Disability	94	71	78
Dually Diagnosed	294	237	199
Physical Disability	216	316	294
Needing Acute Health Care	56	69	56
Needing Respite Health Care	63	21	32
Other	62	236	43
Total Factors	2,121	2,279	1,810

The reporting of mental illness as a disability has increased steadily over the past 5 years:

<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
588	587	464	443	335

While this increase may reflect an increase in incidence *or* an increase in reporting, the former has been reported anecdotally by human service providers throughout the region. It appears that the number of seriously mentally ill people in the homeless system has increased noticeably with the loss of funds in the mental health system.

Last Permanent Address

The One Night Count survey asks participants to list the last permanent address of people utilizing their services. A permanent address is defined as a place occupied for at least two months, excluding shelter and transitional housing. This information was collected for over 70% of the households who were accessing services. On the night of the count, 85% of the emergency shelter and transitional programs were located in the City of Seattle, in contrast only 51% of the households reported Seattle as their last permanent address. The Balance of King County provided 15% of the total services, and 22% of people listed the greater King County area as their last permanent address. The remaining households were either from Washington State (excluding King County) – 10% or from out of state – 16%. The most significant change from last year's survey was the decline of people from outside Washington.

Last Permanent Address of Households Surveyed

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Seattle	1131 (51%)	1220 (50%)
North or East King County	200 (9%)	253 (10%)
South King County	292 (13%)	245 (10%)
Washington State (outside of King County)	232 (10%)	226 (9%)
Out of State	367 (16%)	495 (20%)
Unknown	177	
Information not monitored	738	
Total Households	3,137 (100%)	3,047 (100 %)

Institutions

The 2002 survey asked programs to report the number of people who had been released from an institution within the past two years. This was the coalition's first attempt to capture quantitative information about people being released from psychiatric hospitals, the foster care system, inpatient drug and alcohol treatment facilities, and prisons and work release programs. A total of 342 people who were homeless reported being released from an institution. Respondents were allowed to report more than one experience and therefore an unduplicated count is not available. The majority of programs did not collect this type of data and so these results should be viewed as preliminary findings. A more in-depth analysis is needed to determine the prevalence of people being release to the emergency housing system.

Instances of Institutionalization Reported

Psychiatric Hospital	75
Hospital for Mental Illness	80
Foster Care System	15
Inpatient Drug / Alcohol Treatment	141
Jail / Prison or Work Release Facility	124
TOTAL	435

Highlight: Seattle

The survey of shelter and transitional housing within the City of Seattle accounted for 3,674 individuals in the One Night Count. The largest group was comprised of single men (45% of the total), while the next largest was adult women with children (23%). Two parent families made up 13% of the total, while single women made up 15%.

Individuals by Household Type (for persons surveyed in the City of Seattle)

	<u># of Individuals</u>	<u>%* of Total</u>
Two-parent Family w/Children	478	13
Couple with no Children	28	1
Adult Woman with Children	828	23
Teen Woman (18 and Under) w/Child	33	1
Man with Children	69	2
Single Woman	542	15
Single Man	1,660	45
Unaccompanied Minor	36	1
Unknown	0	0
Information not Monitored		0
Total	3,674	100%

*Proportion is based on total less “unknown” and “not monitored”

Age – Seattle

Seattle provides shelter and transitional housing to 905 children/youth (up to 17 years of age); of these, 40% are 5 years or under. It is also notable that 177 people using the homelessness programs in Seattle are over 60 years of age. This sub-population is mostly male (86%).

Individuals by Age (for persons surveyed in the City of Seattle)

	<u>Number of Individuals</u>	<u>Proportion</u>
0 – 5 years	359	10
6 – 12 years	310	9
13 – 17 years	236	7
Subtotal 0 – 17	905	26
18 – 25 years	406	11
26 – 59 years	2,045	58
60 – 84 years	175	5
85 and older	2	0
Unknown	141	
Information Not Monitored		
Total	3,674	100%

Race, Immigration and Language – Seattle

Interestingly, utilization of the different shelter and transitional housing programs varies in terms of race, immigration and language. For instance, African-American individuals, who make up 32% of the total programs surveyed, make up 43% of the homeless individuals in the family shelters. White individuals, who make up approximately 35% of the total, account for the highest percentage (38%) within the single adult shelters.

African-American people also make up the highest percentage of people in transitional housing for families (27%) in Seattle programs, with African nationals the next highest (26%).

By far the greatest percentage of homeless individuals who are immigrants and/or refugees in homelessness programs in Seattle were in transitional programs for families (73%) on the night of the count, with minimal numbers using the youth programs. This trend is paralleled among the homeless individuals with 'limited English', with nearly 70% of this sub-group being in family transitional housing.

Factors Contributing to Homelessness – Seattle

Of the total individuals who were counted for this survey of Seattle homelessness programs, 822 provided information relating to contributing factors. The survey allowed for more than one factor to be attributed to an individual.

Among these programs, economic/financial loss was the most frequently cited factor contributing to homelessness, with 468 individuals reporting this situation. In Seattle, eviction/displacement was cited by 256 individuals; family crisis was reported by 254.

Factors Contributing to Homelessness^{*} (for persons surveyed in the City of Seattle)

Transience	411
Family Crisis (divorce. Widowed, etc.)	254
Physical Abuse	130
Emotional Abuse	187
Domestic Violence	225
Did not meet Housing Criteria	109
Minor Chose to Leave Home	14
Minor Asked to Leave Home	30
Economic or Financial Loss	468
Eviction or Displacement	256
Racism	39
Homophobia	10
Other Type of Oppression	5
Other	262

^{*} note: The survey allowed for more than one factor to be attributed to an individual.

Disabilities – Seattle

Of all the disabilities reported in the survey, alcohol/substance abuse and mental illness are clearly the most prominent with a high incidence for both. This trend is particularly true for Single Adult Shelters.

Instances Reported by Type of Program (for persons surveyed in the City of Seattle)

	Alcohol / Substance Abuse	Mental Illness
Shelter-Singles / Adults	287	240
Shelter-Families	18	40
Shelter Youth/Young Adults	11	5
Transitional-Singles/Adults	162	128
Transitional-Families	49	41
Transitional- Youth/Young Adults	25	14
Voucher	0	2
Safe Haven	4	44
Totals	556	514

As in previous years, alcohol/substance abuse is more widely reported for males, while the incidence of mental illness is more frequently reported for women.

Incidence Reported by Gender (for persons surveyed in the City of Seattle)

	<u>Alcohol / Substance Abuse</u>	<u>Mental Illness</u>
Men	409	277
Women	147	236

Income – Seattle

While 22% of homeless program participants in Seattle were employed at the time of the survey, 97% were surviving on no income (38%) or very low income which is designated as 30% or below AMI (59%).

Last Permanent Address – Seattle

Of the homeless individuals being served by programs that track peoples' last permanent address, 60% of the individuals in the Seattle-based programs listed their last permanent address to be in Seattle. Eleven percent (11%) had addresses in the balance of King County, 10% in the balance of Washington State outside King County, and 19% were out of state addresses.

Last Permanent Address of Households in Seattle Programs

Seattle	1,077 (60%)
North King County	50 (3%)
East King County	30 (2%)
South King County	115 (6%)
Washington State (outside of King County)	182 (10%)
Out of State	335 (19%)
Unknown	147
Information not monitored	714
Total Households	2650 (100%)

Institutional Discharge – Seattle

For the first time, the 2002 survey requested information regarding homeless program participants and recent discharge from institutions.

In Seattle, 256 individuals described in the One Night Count survey reported being released from one or more institutions *in the last year*. This means that approximately 7% of the individuals using homeless programs in Seattle were ‘housed’ by mainstream bodies in their recent past. For the total in the City of Seattle and the balance of County, inpatient drug and alcohol treatment facilities were the most frequently cited, although in Seattle alone, the criminal justice institutions are slightly higher in incidence.

Instances of Institutionalization Reported

	<u>Seattle</u>	<u>Balance of County</u>
Psychiatric Hospital	56	19
Hospital for Mental Illness	65	15
Foster Care System	11	4
Inpatient Drug / Alcohol Treatment	96	45
Jail / Prison or Work Release Facility	104	20
TOTAL	332	103

Incidence of Homelessness – Seattle

The vast majority of households in the Seattle programs surveyed were homeless for 5 months or less (64%). For 61% of these households, this homelessness ‘episode’ was the sole episode in the last two years.

In comparison with 2001, the percentage of households reporting this episode of homelessness to be the sole incident in the past two years has increased (from 56% to 64%). More frequent episodes of homelessness (e.g., 4 or more in the last 2 years) had a much lower rate of incidence (7%).

This data corroborates the literature that describes national trends indicating that, within the whole homeless community, the percentage of people who have experienced multiple and protracted homelessness (*'chronic' homelessness*), is actually a small number.

Highlight: King County

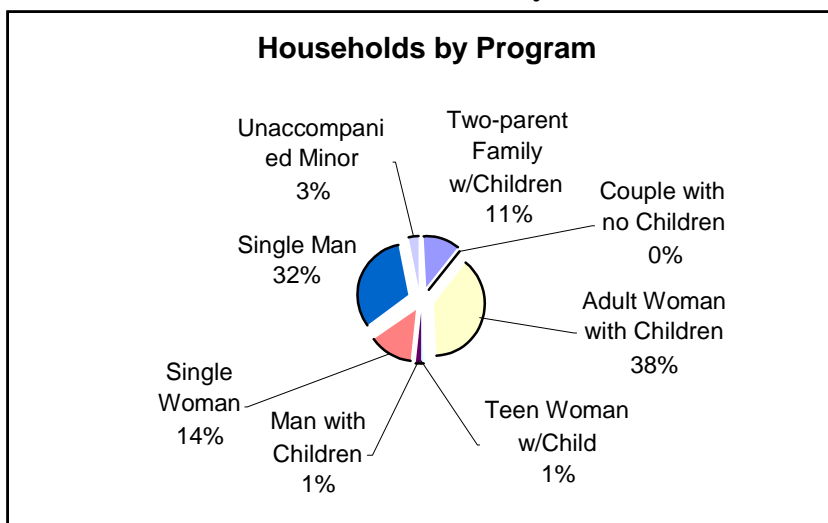
People who are homeless in the county tend to be less visible than their Seattle counterparts. However, the problem is just as acute. On the night of *October 17, 2002* there were 905 homeless individuals in 449 households living in 55 different emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in King County, excluding the City of Seattle.

Households – Balance of County

Of the 449 homeless households in East, North and South King County:

- 27% live in emergency shelter and 72% in transitional housing.
- The largest household group is families with children (48%) and adult women with children account for 35% of these households.
- The next highest household group is single men (33%), while single women comprised only 16% of the East, North and South King County household population.

Balance of County



Though there are fewer single adult women homeless households in North, East and South King County, we believe this is more a result of there being fewer emergency shelter and transitional housing programs for single women, than it is an indicator of the actual number of homeless single women. Indeed, the 2002 Inventory of Homeless Units in Seattle/King County confirms this. There are roughly 65 facility-based shelter spaces available for single adult men in East and South King County, compared to 18 facility-based shelter spaces for single adult women.

Of particular importance is the realization that South King County has only 9 shelter beds for single adult women needing emergency housing for reasons other than domestic violence or pregnancy, while North King County has virtually no single adult shelter for either men or women.

Individuals, Age and Gender – Balance of County

Of the 905 homeless individuals in East, North and South King County:

- 52% are female; 48% are male.
- 74% are individuals that have children living with them. Nearly 50% are adult women with children and 24% are two-parent families.

Individuals by Age (for persons surveyed in Balance of County)

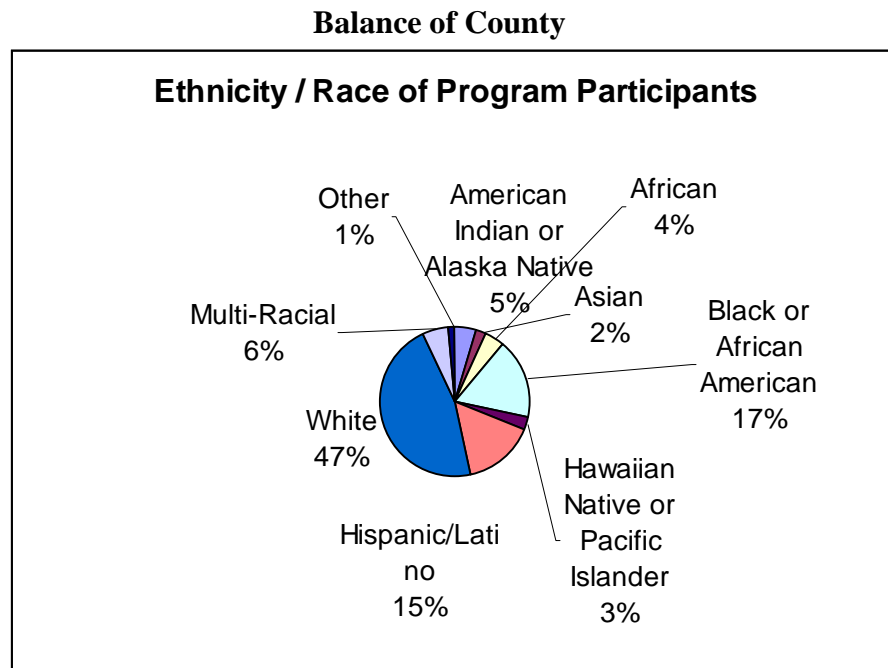
	Number of Individuals	Proportion
0 – 5 years	218	22
6 – 12 years	166	17
13 – 17 years	107	11
Subtotal 0 – 17	491	49
18 – 25 years	138	14
26 – 59 years	358	36
60 – 84 years	13	1
85 and older	0	0
Unknown	1	
Information Not Monitored	0	
Total	1,001	100%

As you can see:

- Children under the age of 17 make up 48% of the homeless population residing in shelters and transitional housing in the County outside Seattle – with the majority being less than 12 years old.
- People between the ages of 26-59 are the next highest age group (37%), with males and females being somewhat evenly distributed.

Race/Ethnicity/Language – Balance of County

The homeless shelter system is ethnically diverse in North, South and East King County. Of the 905 homeless individuals reported:



The number of limited English speaking homeless individuals declined this year from 14% to 8.4%. In addition, 11 percent of the homeless individuals are immigrants, refugees or new arrivals and of these individuals, the vast majority are families with children.

Factors Contributing to Homelessness – Balance of County

The 2002 *One Night Survey* indicates that the four most frequently reported reasons for homelessness by households living in East, North and South King County are:

Factors Contributing to Homelessness (for persons surveyed in Balance of County)

Domestic Violence (Physical and Emotional)	38%
Economic or Financial Loss	14%
Family Crisis	13%
Eviction/Displacement	13%

*** These are duplicated numbers; more than 1 factor could be checked. For more detailed information, please see the spreadsheets.*

Disabilities – Balance of County

- Thirty-Six percent of the homeless population in the balance of the county reported having at least one disability, an increase from last year where only 21% reported having more than 1 disability.
- Of the 331 disabilities identified, alcohol/substance abuse represented 38%, mental illness 22%, and dual diagnosis 16%.

Income – Balance of County

In East, North and South King County, 93% of homeless households earn less than 30% of the median income (\$17,750 for a family of three). “...Yet for the 56,000 renter households in all of King County at this income level, there are only 32,475 units affordable including subsidized units (less than 500 of these are market-rate rentals), leaving a deficit of 23,223 units.” (2001 King County Benchmark Report).

Source of Income – Balance of County

- Nearly 34% receive an income from employment – indicating that homeless workers are employed in low-wage jobs struggling to make ends meet.
- Public benefits are the primary source of income for almost 50% of homeless households living outside of the City of Seattle. Of these households:
 - 23% receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, more commonly known as TANF or welfare. For a woman with 2 children, the standard monthly financial cash assistance (not including food stamps or medical) is \$546, and increases to \$642 for a family of four.
 - For single adults that are temporarily unable to work due to a physical, mental or substance abuse issue, 7% receive General Assistance Unemployable (GAU) and 3% receive ADATSA (Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support). The standard cash grant excluding food stamps and medical for a single person is \$339 per month.
 - Another 8% who meet federal disability requirements receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A single adult household will receive \$545 a month from the federal government.
- Unfortunately, 15% currently have no income and of these households, 38% are families with children.

Homeless people without an income are often in the process of obtaining one. They may be searching for employment, be in the process of applying for and or awaiting public benefits and may not qualify for unemployment. In the meantime, many of these individuals and families

may borrow money, live off savings or credit cards (if they have a credit card), or the generosity of family, friends and the nonprofit social service system.

Without an income, individuals are unable to pay rent or fees at the transitional housing programs where they reside – resulting in revenue shortfalls for already strapped nonprofit agencies most of whom are already operating on a shoestring.

Last Permanent Address – Balance of County

62% of the people who were homeless surveyed in East, North and South King County indicate their last permanent address was in East, North or South King County, while 19% were from outside of King County or came from another state entirely.

Last Permanent Address of Households in King County Programs

Seattle	54 (12%)
North King County	12 (3%)
East King County	108 (25%)
South King County	177 (41%)
Washington State (outside of King County)	50 (12%)
Out of State	32 (7%)
Unknown	
Information not monitored	
<hr/>	
Total Households	487 (100 %)

Amount of Time and Number of Episodes Homeless – Balance of County

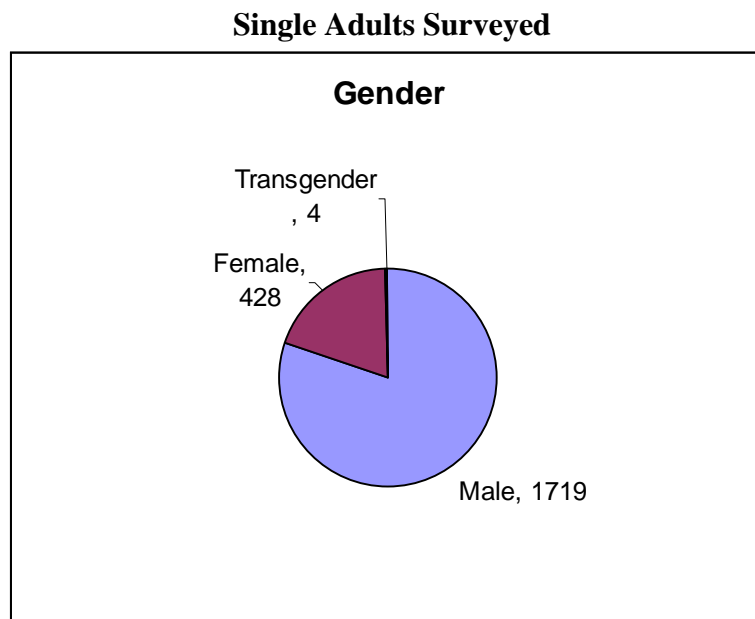
Not all agencies monitor the amount of time a household is homeless. However, for those that do monitor this information, it's encouraging to see that the majority of households currently homeless have been homeless for less than one year, despite the enormous barriers they face and the current economic climate.

- In East, North and South King County 67% report being homeless for 5 months or less and 16% for 12 months or longer.

While we only have information on 281 (out of 449) homeless households reporting, it's encouraging to see that for more than $\frac{3}{4}$ or 71% of these households – this is the only time they've experienced homelessness in the past two years.

Highlight: Single Adults

According to the One Night Count Survey, 46% of individuals served were accessing a program serving single adults. This figure included 1,522 people in shelters and 629 people in transitional housing.



Nearly all of the veterans (92%) accessing services were located in a single adult program; furthermore 72% of all homeless veterans were utilizing emergency shelters (as opposed to transitional housing).

It should be noted that all but 59 of the 1,522 single adult shelter units were located in the City of Seattle. In contrast, only 590 people accessing those shelters declared Seattle as their last permanent address.

Disabilities – Single Adults

The people in single adult programs tend to report a higher number of disabilities than the rest of the homeless population. According to the programs that responded, 2,121 people reported at least one disability. Over 75% of all the people with a disability were in a single adult program.

**Percentage comparison of reported disabilities:
Single Adult programs compared to all others.**

Type of disability	Single Adult Programs	All other programs combined
HIV/AIDS	67%	33%
Mental Illness	70%	30%
Chemical dependency	80%	20%
Developmental disability	49%	51%
Dually diagnosed	83%	17%
Physical disability	74%	26%
Needing acute health care	45%	55%
Needing respite health care	89%	11%
Other	56%	44%
Total all types of disabilities	74%	26%
Percentage of people who reported at least one disability	76%	24%

Institutions – Single Adults

As with disabilities, single adults were far more likely to report having been recently discharged from an institution when compared to other people who were homeless. 78% of all the people who reported being released were utilizing a single adult program. The table below details the types of institutions.

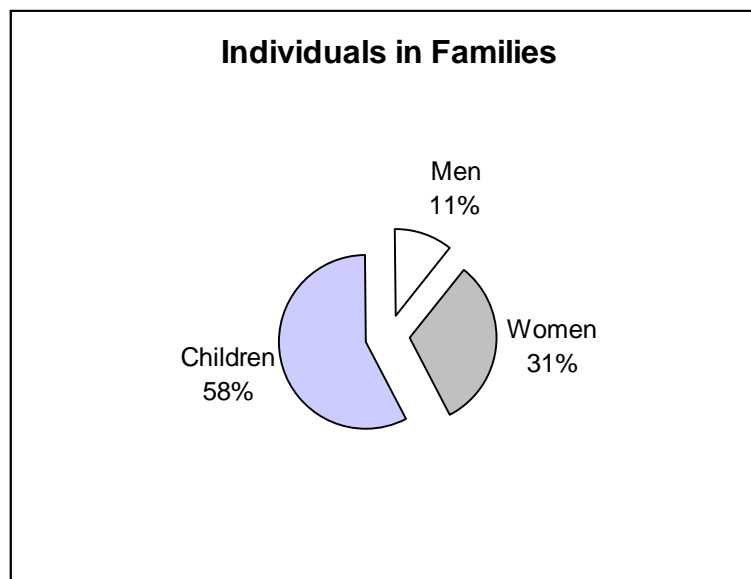
Percentage comparison of people released from institutions. Single Adult programs compared to all others.

Type of institution	Single Adult Programs	All other programs combined
Psychiatric Hospital	72%	28%
Hospital for mental illness	78%	22%
Foster Care System	20%	80%
Inpatient drug/alcohol treatment	82%	18%
Jail/Prison or work release facility	74%	26%
Total	75%	25%
Percentage of people who reported being released from at least on institution	78%	22%

Highlight: Families

Homeless families face many issues that prevent them from stabilizing in permanent housing. Lack of affordable housing is a major barrier despite changes to the housing market which have resulted in increased vacancy rates. While there is more housing available, the overwhelming majority of housing is not affordable to families making 30% or less of median income. 96 % of families surveyed had incomes that were 30% or below of median area income and of those 14% had no income at all. The downturn in the economy has also made it difficult for homeless adults with the education and job skills to find work, especially work that pays a living wage.

This year's survey found a total of 2,143 individuals comprising 719 households who were utilizing programs designed to serve families who are homeless. Of those individuals, 1,240 (58%) were children below the age of 18.



Homeless families have many issues that affect their ability to find housing including very low incomes, poor credit histories, past evictions, domestic violence, lack of job training/skills, and language barriers. Several shelter and transitional providers report that more of the heads of households have serious medical issues that are often untreated. These basic health issues often prevent families from securing and maintaining stable housing. The homeless families in our community are often hooked up to appropriate mainstream resources yet these resources aren't enough to prevent or end homelessness. It is increasingly difficult for families receiving TANF and participating in Workfirst to move beyond homelessness.

Homeless providers continue to see an increase in the number of large families (5 persons or more) and refugee families who are struggling to keep their families together. Hotel voucher programs are often having to house larger families in multiple units or hotel rooms thus

increasing the costs involved with housing them. Larger families also have a very hard time locating affordable permanent housing. There is very small number of 4 and 5 bedroom homes in the Seattle King County region that are less than \$2000 per month.

The majority of individuals who had a language barrier were accessing a family program. 82% of the people who spoke limited English or required TTY assistance were in family programs. Similarly, 89% immigrant and refugees were utilizing family services. It is notable that the vast majority of immigrants and people with language barriers were in transitional housing as opposed to family shelters.

At the time of the survey there were 43 known pregnant women in shelters and transitional housing programs. Of these women, 34 were in family programs.

Compared to the 2001 survey results, there was a 4% reduction in the number of family households receiving TANF.

Household composition

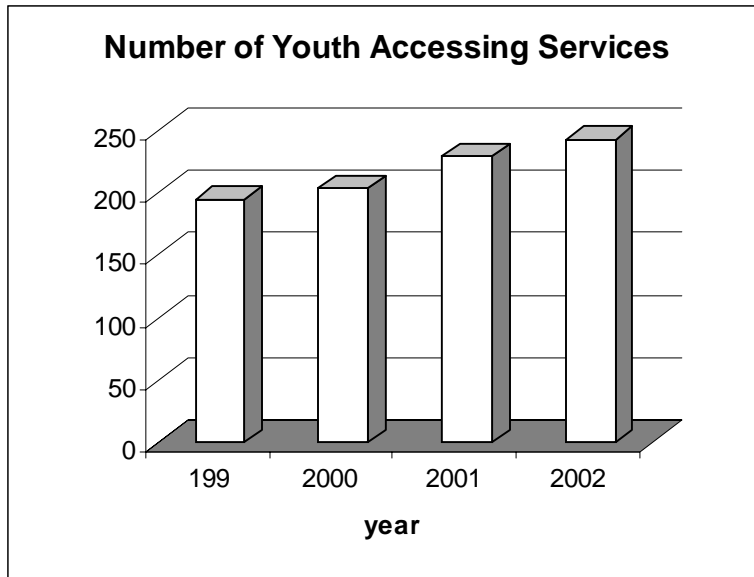
Adult women with children made up the majority (56%) of households in family programs. The chart below details the household composition of family programs.

Number of Households in Family Programs

	<u>shelters</u>	<u>transitional programs</u>
Two parent families with children	45	99
Couples without children	0	1
Adult women with children	109	297
Teen women with children	1	0
Men with children	3	25
Single women	70	37
Single men	0	32
Total households in family programs	228	491

Highlight: Youth

Youth programs traditionally serve minors who are on their own, teenage parents, and young adults between the ages of 18-25. Providers have reported problems engaging youth in services due to state reporting requirements and restrictive program rules. Organizations and advocates have tried to increase the service utilization rates among young people who are homeless. According the One Night Count survey, the number of youth accessing programs has continually increased since 1999.



Of the people utilizing youth programs, 57% were between 18-25 years old, 26% were between 13 and 17 years old, and 17% were age 12 or younger.

Chemical dependency was the most frequently cited disability among youth who were homeless, and mental illness was the second highest reported disability.

According to the survey, a family crisis, such as divorce, was frequently cited as a major factor contributing to a youth needing homeless services. There was also a high number of youth who reported experiencing some form of abuse, including emotional, physical, and domestic violence.

Highlight: Voucher Programs

When an individual or family faces a barrier to utilizing traditional shelters, emergency motel vouchers are sometimes used to house them. The length of stay on a motel voucher can range from one night to a series of nights until the caseworker can secure placement for the individual or family in an appropriate shelter or transitional housing program.

Voucher program placement is usually based upon the availability of funds at the particular agency. Some programs designate the amount of funds to be distributed on a yearly basis, while others utilize the resource on an as needed basis. Since the One Night Count survey takes place later in the calendar year, 3 of the 14 agencies reported they did not have any funds available to distribute on that night.

On the evening of October 17, 94 individuals were housed using motel vouchers. 89 of those individuals were located in the City of Seattle, and 5 in the balance of King County.

Of the total individuals:

- 28 were part of a two parent family with children, for a total of 8 households
- 6 were couples without children
- 50 were adult women with children, for a total of 14 households
- 2 were men with children
- 2 were single women
- 6 were single men
- 15 individuals reported a disability contributed to their homelessness, 12 of those individuals reported HIV/AIDS, 2 mental illness, and 1 reported needing acute medical care
- 3 of the women reported they were pregnant

Highlight: Safe Havens

44 individuals were counted within the Safe Haven category. Safe Haven transitional programs house individuals with serious and persistent mental illness. All of the Safe Haven programs are located in the City of Seattle.

Of the total, 15 individuals were single women and 29 single men. 39 of the individuals were in the 26-59 age category.

In addition, within the disabilities category 44 of the individuals listed Mental Illness, 4 listed Alcohol/ Substance abuse and 6 reported being Dually Diagnosed. 1 reported HIV/AIDS, 1 physical disability and 1 reported needing either acute healthcare.

5 of the individuals reported being released from a psychiatric hospital. 20 reported transience as a factor contributing to their homelessness.

Concluding Summary

The 2002 One Night Count estimates 7,980 people are homeless in King County on any given night.

We can be certain that, on October 17, 2002 there were 4,675 homeless individuals in shelters or transitional programs in our region. In addition, 2,040 women, men and children were sleeping or wandering outdoors --- unsheltered --- in Seattle alone. It is estimated that at least 1,265 persons were living, unsheltered, in the balance of the county.

The One Night Count total for 2002 has increased significantly from the year 2001 estimate of 7,350 homeless people. As this report shows, *the majority of this increase consists of people identified during the Street Count, meaning they were without safe overnight accommodations.* The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless is very concerned about the growing number of people trying to survive outside without so much as a roof over their head.

The Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless hopes that this snapshot in time picture of who is homeless in King County can help create the political and public will to:

- guarantee the availability of safe shelter for all
- increase the supply of affordable housing, and
- ensure all homeless people and those at-risk receive relevant support services.

Methodology: One Night County 2002

Street Count

At 2:30 A.M. on October 17, 2002, 200 volunteer counters left from downtown Seattle, while another 100 volunteers left from Ballard and the University District, with a goal of counting individuals living unsheltered on the streets in downtown Seattle, and some surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, nearly 100 volunteers implemented a street count in parts of Kent. This was the first time that the street count was expanded beyond the Seattle City limits.

Counting teams, comprised of approximately 3-6 volunteers, spread out over their region on foot, and counted the number of people who were homeless and living on the street, in alleys, doorways, cars and in makeshift shelters, returning with their tallied numbers by 5:30 A.M.

The figures from each team's tally sheets were collated to discern the total count. The results of the street count were then available by 6 A.M. for the media and elected officials who were present at the count's end. Press releases were FAXed to other media during that morning

Shelter and Transitional Housing Survey

On October 17, 175 programs providing shelter, transitional housing or hotel/motel vouchers, completed a comprehensive survey which had been sent to each program two weeks prior to the One Night Count.

The survey encompassed information relating to the individuals and families they served that night. Service providers documented information including total numbers served, sex, age race/ethnicity and language of those served, as well as information relating to veteran status, disabilities and income. Also collected was information regarding prior living situations, reason and duration of homelessness, and the number of incidences of homelessness in the past two years.

Agencies Participating in the 2002 One Night Count Survey

Acres of Diamonds	Kirkland Interfaith Transitional Housing
Archdiocesan Housing Authority	Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Auburn Youth Resources	Low Income Housing Institute
Bread of Life Mission	Mamma's Hands
Catholic Community Services	Manaway Evangelistic Ministry
Central Area Motivation Program	Multi-Service Center
Church Council of Greater Seattle	Muslim Housing Services
CityTeam Ministries	New Beginnings
Community Psychiatric Clinic	Plymouth House of Healing
Compass Center	Pregnancy Aid of Kent
Compassion House	Providence Hospitality House
Consejo Counseling & Referral Service	Seattle Children's Home
Department of Community & Human Services	Seattle Emergency Housing Service
Development Association of the Goodwill Baptist Church	Seattle Housing and Resource Effort
Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN)	Seattle Indian Center
Downtown Emergency Service Center	Seattle Mental Health
Eastside Domestic Violence Program	Sojourner Place
Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council- CCS	Special Delivery Ministry
El Centro de la Raza	TeenHope
Exodus Housing	The Salvation Army
Family Services	Trinity House
First Avenue Service Center/ Operation	Union Gospel Mission
Nightwatch	
First Place	United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Fremont Public Association	United States Mission Corp
Friends of Youth	University Temple Methodist
Hopelink	Victory Outreach
Housing of Meaningful Emergencies	Vine Maple Place
Immanuel Lutheran	Vision House
Interaction Transition	Way Back Inn
Interfaith Hospitality Network of Seattle	Yacob's House
International District Housing Alliance	YMCA of Greater Seattle
Issaquah Church and Community Services	Youth & Outreach Services
Jewish Family Services	YouthCare
Jubilee Women's Center	YWCA Seattle-King Co. – Snohomish Co.
Kent Youth and Family Services	

Organizations Participating in the 2002 Street Count

Aloha Inn
Archdiocesan Housing Authority
Ballard Family Center
Boomtown Café
Catholic Community Services
Catholic Community Services – South King County
Central Lutheran Lunch Program
Church of Mary Magdalene
City of Seattle Human Service Department
Community Health Centers of King County
Compass Center
Crisis Clinic
Downtown Emergency Service Center
First Place
Friends of Youth
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Homesight
Interfaith Taskforce on Homelessness
King County Housing and Community Development Program
Low Income Housing Institute
Multi-Service Center
Operation Nightwatch
Orion Youth Center
Partnership for Youth
Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets
Plymouth Housing Group
REACH
Real Change Homeless Newspaper
Saint Vincent de Paul
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Seattle Human Services Coalition
Seattle Pacific University students
Seattle Police Department Community Service Officers
Union Gospel Mission
United Way of King County
University of Washington students
Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation
Vine Maple Place
Vision House
YWCA Seattle-King County- Snohomish County

Additional Resources

National Websites

Housing and Homelessness Issues

- National Alliance to End Homelessness, www.naeh.org
- National Coalition for the Homeless, www.nationalhomeless.org
- National Housing Trust Fund, www.nhtf.org
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development, www.hud.gov
- US Conference of Mayors, www.usmayors.org

Washington State Websites

Housing and Homelessness Issues

- Washington State Office of Community Development, www.oed.wa.gov
- Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, <http://home.earthlink.net/~wsch/>
- Housing Development Consortium, www.hdc-kingcounty.org

Local Policy Papers and Reports

- 2001 King County Benchmark Report, <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/orpp/benchmrk/bench01/>
- Homeless Child Care Needs Assessment: February 2000
Metro-King County, <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/csd/childcare/HomelessChildCare.pdf>
- NW Jobs Gap Study: Searching for Work that Pays, Washington State June 2001, <http://depts.washington.edu/npc/NWJobGapWA.pdf>
- Street Youth Task Force Pilot Project Needs Assessment, Interim Report
King County, October 2001
- WA. State DSHS: Homeless Families Report <http://www-app2.wa.gov/dshs/rda/>
- WA. State DSHS, Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention and Planning in King County, May 2001 <http://www-app2.wa.gov/dshs/rda/rc/>
- 2001 Washington State Data Book, Office of Financial Management, www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/index.htm
- Impact of Government Regulations and Fees on Housing Costs, May 2001, Washington Research Council, <http://www.researchcouncil.org/Briefs/2001/ePB01-18/Growth9.htm>
- Washington State 2002 Competitiveness Report, a joint study <http://www.researchcouncil.org/ace/washace2002/washace2002report.htm>